



For immediate release
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Child support amnesty campaign set Aug. 1 – 14
Parents who owe support provided chance to make a difference

Arlington – August is National Child Support Month, and the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) is offering parents who owe back child support a chance to make a difference by sponsoring a two-week amnesty program Aug. 1 - 14.

The DCSE Arlington Office, in coordination with the District of Columbia Child Support Services Division and Maryland Office of Child Support Enforcement, are leading the effort in the D.C. metro area to obtain past-due support owed to children in the region.

DCSE has identified approximately 900 Arlington County non-custodial parents who could benefit from amnesty, and who currently owe nearly \$17 million in back support.

“We find that non-custodial parents who pay child support are more involved with their children. That involvement translates into additional emotional support for their children. Children are the beneficiaries,” said VDSS Commissioner Anthony Conyers Jr.

Parents who are ordered by the court to pay child support and who have outstanding warrants, revoked driver’s licenses, denied passports, etc., will be notified by mail about the child support amnesty campaign. Amnesty will only be offered for warrants issued by the court as a result of non-payment of child support. Non-custodial parents who do not take advantage of the program will be subject to arrest after Aug. 14.

“Parents need to be both emotionally and financially involved in their children’s lives if we want the children to succeed as adults,” said DCSE Director Nick Young. “Parents who pay their child support obligations help their children avoid poverty and have a higher standard of living.”

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A second chance to make a difference

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Individuals with outstanding warrants that are not child support related should resolve them *before* coming to area DCSE offices during the Child Support Amnesty campaign.

Those interested in making payments during amnesty, may come in person to the DCSE Arlington office, and make a lump sum payment and sign a payment agreement. Amnesty will be requested at the time of payment.

Participants should bring valid photo identification and payment in the form of cash, certified check or money order. For questions about the child support amnesty campaign, contact the Arlington DCSE office at (866) 488-2591 or visit the VDSS Web site at <http://www.dss.virginia.gov>.

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